

From: [Onkar Bindra](#)
To: [Tom Torlakson](#); [Craig Cheslog](#); [Tom Adams](#); [Kenneth McDonald](#); [SBE](#)
Subject: ACR 154 (Gray, 2014)- Modesto School District: World-Geography & World-Religionss Class
Date: Saturday, December 13, 2014 12:19:50 PM

Sir,

I invite your kind attention to the following quotes from Assembly Concurrent Resolution NO. 154, Gray; RESOLUTION CHAPTER 122, ACR No. 154-Relative to pupil instruction {Filed with Secretary of State August 21, 2014}.

"WHEREAS, The 115-member Community Safe Schools Committee of Modesto met for 14 months and presented in 1998 a set of principles affirming respect for all; and, since 1999, the Modesto City Schools has engaged in the nation's most direct experiment in using the public school curriculum to promote respect for religious freedom and diversity" and

"WHEREAS, The Modesto City Schools' World Geography-World Religions class examines the geographical location, history, culture, and major beliefs of Hinduism, Buddhism, Sikhism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam"; and

"WHEREAS, The **nine character traits** of responsibility and respect, which are courage, honesty, loyalty, respect, responsibility, civility, compassion, initiative, and perseverance, are stressed throughout the class, and pupils are taught **how to make appropriate comments without offending other pupils**"; and

"WHEREAS, The class has been very successful in helping Sikh pupils feel more accepted and in helping pupils understand their First Amendment rights, understand and practice the character traits of respect and responsibility, become informed about the religious diversity in their community and the world, and obtain greater understanding about the six major world religions" (*) ; and

"WHEREAS, The Modesto City Schools is perhaps the only school district in the state that requires all pupils to learn about and understand world religions; now, therefore, be it"

" Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate thereof concurring, That the Legislature acknowledges and applauds the Modesto City Schools' initiative and achievements in teaching the unique World Geography-World Religions class as a grade-9 required course for the last 15 years, and recommends that the class be considered for adoption by other school districts in the state".

In view of the valuable results achieved in the Modesto City Schools District, it is requested that the above resolution be considered for endorsement and recommendation by the CDE and the SBE. Thanks.

Sincerely,

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* The class includes relevant quotes ; guidelines for teaching world religions ; Tips for effective communication; Listening with care; History of USA; Roger Williams. World Religions: Introduction to World Religions; Eastern Religions, Western Religions;